

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01324 211915Z
ACTION EUR-02

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TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6526
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (CLIFFORD, CLARK M) CY, TU, GR
SUBJECT: CLIFFORD STATEMENT AFTER MEETING PRESIDENT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT TO JOURNALISTS BY CLARK M. CLIFFORD
AFTER MEETING WITH TURKISH PRESIDENT FAHRI KORUTURK MON 21 FEB:
(BEGIN TEXT)

THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE TALKS THAT HAD GONE ON WITH
THE PRIME MINISTER AND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. WE MADE A REPORT
IN THAT REGARD. AND THEN HE WENT BACK AND GAVE US A MOST
INTERESTING HISTORICAL ACCOUNTING OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY. HE WAS INVOLVED IN MANY VERY
IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING INCIDENTS OF MANY YEARS AGO, AND HE
REPEATED THOSE TO US WITH GREAT CLARITY.

AND THEN HE TOLD OF HIS CONTINUING INTEREST IN MAINTAINING
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TURKEY AND UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIPS. WE COMMENTED UPON
THE IMPORTANCE OF NATO TODAY, THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS FORMED THIRTY
YEARS AGO, IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TODAY AS IT WAS THEN, AND
THAT EACH SIDE EXPLAINED TO THE OTHER THE MANNER IN WHICH IT
WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY CONTINUE THE
FRIENDLIEST RELATIONSHIPS, SO THAT THEY COULD CONTINUE TO
STRENGTHEN NATO. THIS WAS THE SUBSTANCE OF IT. AND WE WISHED

HIM WELL, AND HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD HAVE A VERY SAFE TRIP
HOME. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.
(END TEXT)
AUSTIN

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